

Application Serial No: 10/041,517
Attorney Docket No.: 51934 (ACT-141)

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and light of the remarks which follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-44 are pending in the application, claims 1-24 having been canceled and replaced with newly presented claims 25-44. Support for the new claims can be found at least in original claims 1-24 taken with the drawing figures.

Turning now to the Official Action, applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21. Applicants have based new claims independent 35-37 largely on original claims 16, 17 and 20, respectively, and believe those claims are allowable at least for the reasons the original claims were determined to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 16, 18 and 21 stand objected to for various informalities. This objection has been obviated by the cancellation of those claims. Further, the new claims have been drafted to avoid the objectionable matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Demangone* (U.S. Patent No. 6,474,878). In addition, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Demangone*. These rejections have been obviated by the foregoing amendments.

Independent claims 25, 32 and 33 are based largely on original claim 1, and further includes, among others, features recited in original dependent claim 2. Independent claim 39 is based largely on original independent claim 22, and further includes features recited in claim 2. Applicants note that claim 2 was not rejected based on *Demangone*.

Accordingly, the rejections based on *Demangone* are not applicable to the newly presented claims.

Claims 1, 5, 10-12 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Bonanni* (U.S. Patent No. 4,998,796). In addition, claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 15 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Henson* (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,817), and claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

Application Serial No: 10/041,517
Attorney Docket No.: 51934 (ACT-141)

obvious over *Henson*. These rejections have been obviated by the foregoing amendments.

As discussed above, independent claims 25, 32 and 33, based largely on original claim 1, further includes, among others, features recited in original dependent claim 2. Independent claim 39 is based largely on original independent claim 22, and also includes features of original dependent claim 2. Neither original claim 2 nor claim 22 were rejected on these grounds.

Accordingly, the rejections based on *Bonanni* and *Henson* are not applicable to the newly presented claims.

In the only other rejections, claims 1, 2 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kakii et al* (U.S. Patent No. 4,818,059), and claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Kakii et al*. These rejections have been obviated by the foregoing amendments.

In addition to including features from claims 1 and 2, independent claim 25 includes features of original claim 3, which was not rejected on these grounds. The other independent claims likewise are based on features from original claims which were not rejected based on *Kakii et al*. For example, independent claims 32 and 33 include features of original claims 1, 2 and 5 and 1, 2 and 8, respectively, and claim 39 is based largely on claim 22.

Accordingly, the rejections based on *Kakii et al* are not applicable to the newly presented claims.

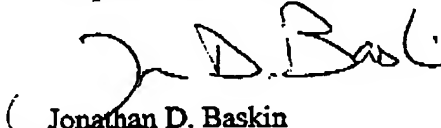
As a final matter, it is noted that the dependent claims are allowable over the applied documents at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Application Serial No: 10/041,517
Attorney Docket No.: 51934 (ACT-141)

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan D. Baskin
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,499
Telephone No.: (508) 787-4766
Facsimile No.: (508) 787-4730

c/o EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
Date: February 10, 2004